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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/357,220	07/20/1999	YOSHIKAZU OCHI	450100-4991	8900

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EXAMINER

TRAN, NHAN T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2615

DATE MAILED: 04/01/2003

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/357,220

Applicant(s)

OOCHI, YOSHIKAZU

Examiner

Nhan T. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 July 1999 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figures 11 & 12 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1 & 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hori (US 6,529,478).

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Regarding claim 1, Hori discloses a video camera apparatus (see fig. 1) comprising:

a solid image sensor (10) having an electronic shutter, for outputting an image sensing in a progressive scan mode (see figs. 1 & 3; col. 2, lines 5-15);

a drive control means (i.e., 12, 30, 32, 34, 36) for controlling the electronic shutter of the solid image sensor at a field cycle of a standard television system (i.e., NTSC) used as a basic cycle, thereby to output the image sensing signal from the solid image sensor in the progressive scan mode (see figs. 1 & 3; col. 4, lines 25-36, 44-56). It is noted that the electronic shutter, represented by "shutter video" as shown in fig. 3, is controlled based on the field cycle of the standard television system as a basic field cycle for two field cycles in the "non-interlaced output" mode (or progressive scan mode).

Regarding claim 2, the claimed limitations are analyzed with respect to claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 3, 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takemura (US 4,839,734).

Regarding claim 3, Takemura discloses a video camera apparatus (see fig. 4) comprising:
a solid sensor (i.e., CCD 16) having an electronic shutter for outputting an image sensing signal in an interlace scan mode or progressive scan mode (i.e., non-interlace mode) (see figs. 1-7; col. 3, lines 10-17; col. 6, lines 24-42);

control means (i.e., driver 14) for controlling the electronic shutter such that a shutter speed in the progressive scan mode is equal to a shutter speed in the interlace scan mode; and output means (26) for outputting the image sensing signal in the progressive scan mode, based on the shutter speed (see figs. 1-7; col. 2, line 66 – col. 3, line 61; col. 4, lines 38-49 & col. 6, lines 57). It is noted that the electronic shutter speed is the same for both interlace mode and non-interlace mode because the gate pulses ϕ_{GA2} and ϕ_{GB2} control the interlace and non-interlace readout modes while maintaining the same shutter speed (or exposure time) from one mode to another mode, and from odd field to even field.

Regarding claim 4, the claimed limitations are analyzed with respect to claim 3.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. Claims 5 & 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hori (US 6,259,478) in view of Heida (US 6,377,301).

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Regarding claim 5, the claimed limitations are accommodated with respect to claim 1. In addition, Hori further discloses a scan converter (18, 20) for converting the image sensing signal based on progressive scanning into an interlace scan signal, and a video output (i.e., RS 422) for outputting the image sensing signal either in non-interlaced or interlaced video format (see col. 3, lines 49-63). Hori does not disclose recording means for recording the image sensing signal based on progressive scanning, or the image sensing signal converted into the interlace scan signal. However, such recording means is well known in the art for use to record image signal so that user can play back the recorded image and this recording means is clearly taught as recording device (15) by Hieda in fig. 1, col. 5, lines 4-8.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the recording device as taught by Heida for recording the video output from the image sensor as disclosed by Hori so that user can play back the recorded image.

Regarding claim 6, the claimed limitations are analyzed with respect to claim 5.

6. Claims 7 & 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takemura (US 4,839,734) in view of Heida (US 6,377,301).

Regarding claim 7, Takemura discloses all the claimed limitations as analyzed with respect to claim 3 except for disclosing scan converter means for converting the image sensing signal based on progressive scanning, into an interlace scan signal; and recording means for recording the image sensing signal converted into the interlace scan signal. In other teaching,

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Hieda teaches scan converter means (12) for converting image signal in progressive scanning mode into an interlace scan signal; and recording means (15) for recording the interlace scan signal converted from the converter means for permanent recording so that user can play back the recorded images (see fig. 1, col. 5, lines 4-8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Takemura's invention with the teaching of Hieda to provide a complete video camera system including scan converter means for converting image signal in progressive scanning mode into an interlace scan signal; and recording means for recording the interlace scan signal converted from the converter means for permanent recording so that user can play back the recorded image.

Regarding claim 8, the claimed limitations are analyzed with respect to claim 7.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nhan T. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 605-4246. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew B Christensen can be reached on (703) 308-9644. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

NT.

March 28, 2003



NGOC-YEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER